20:00

App. No. 09/848,625 Amendment Dated Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5-13, 19, 20 and 27-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5-13, 29, 20 and 27-33 stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 7, 8, 27,32, and 33 and cancelled claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 19, and 20. Amendments to the claims have overcome the stated §112 rejections. No new matter has been added

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Mark R. Hennings

Registration No. 48,982

Direct Dial: 206.342.6289

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P. O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903 206.342.6200